Akuyaku Tensei Dakedo Doushite Kou Natta.

(悪役転生だけどどうしてこうなった。)

Arc 02

Part 01

Sekimura Imuya
(関村イムヤ)

Story Description:

Eliza Kaldia, who reincarnated as a noble girl villainess in a fantasy otome game, was stuck in a world that seemed far from her image of how noble girls should be living, as the fated events of the game were still far off while she remained a child. In the first place, it was suspect if she could even live to make it to the school setting of the game. Due to changes in the situation of the neighboring country which never appeared in the original game, the world became nothing like the flowery school life from the game. It was a world where even young girls had to take up weapons. How did it turn out this way...

I don't have any cheat-like abilities. I can't use magic. My sense of ethics might have become a little twisted due to being reincarnated.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Chapter 70: Two Viewpoints

(This chapter returns to Eliza's point of view.)

I believe that games, books, manga, anime, TV shows, movies, all these things created solely for entertainment purposes are basically so that we can obtain some sort of catharsis. As an example, in my previous life, due to my younger sister's recommendation, I tried a certain otome game.

Helping other people from the heroine's perspective, improving your character by raising your level and stats, and enjoying the drama between the characters.

You can romance handsome, high-spec boys, or even, during that process defeat your love rivals.

With it, you obtain a sense of superiority and satisfaction.

In a medieval European fantasy setting, made of fluffy images, the heroine is able to meet male capture targets filled with various female ideals, although this was all very lacking in realism. Once again, this must purely be for entertainment purposes, as the characters' archetypes were rather exaggerated and very shallow.

The otome game was quite detailed, and it felt deeper than most stories. Just like the original meaning of the word catharsis, it might have been intended to purify the emotions of pity and fear through art.

However, all I know is that it wasn't the case for me.

The heroine was someone that had come from the neighboring country, to go to noble school and look for a husband candidate from among the students, and she would romance them, that was the story.

It didn't depict anything about the brutality and filthiness of human beings, there was nothing in it obstructing people from obtaining catharsis.

I looked around at the earth which was stained with blood. Dead bodies which were unrecognizable, were piled up like garbage.

Military forces between countries had fought here. Humans had caused so much death and destruction.

Why had they fought, why were so many lives sacrificed, the dead would obtain nothing.

There was nothing such as celebration wine to be seen around here.

This was another side to the game world where the heroine was the neighboring country's archduke's daughter and had come to noble school to have fun and find romance. This type of scene had never appeared in the game, yet there were indeed pools of blood everywhere.

There's no such reason like people attempting to obtain catharsis here, there was only people killing each other, and dying. Or, there's no story-like qualities here, only people fighting with all their strength.

People aren't very principled, it's a world where people attack others based on their feelings and desires.

Even though I know that, still, this world is nothing like the game settings at all, only the stage is the same while a war began, I got the ridiculous idea wondering if this was reality at all.

I was simply scared.

Is this world real or fake? Am I just dreaming?

Indeed, my feelings of memories of a past life were fading.

Why did I kill people for, I wonder. Why do people die, I wonder.

Are people's deaths meaningless, I wonder.

I wonder if I would have been happier had I not recalled my past life's memories. If I didn't know the game's story from my past life's memories, would this war have not started, I wonder.

Even if I think about it, I have no answers. That's all I understand.

I just keep telling myself that it's probably for the best that I don't understand anything.

Is this world just a game world from my previous life, I wonder.

Or, is this reality with breathing, living people, I wonder.

I can't decide if this is reality or not, even though technically this isn't supposed to be something that I can just leave undecided.

That's why, maybe I have no choice but to accept, that I can't make a choice between the two.

Chapter 71: Rite Of Passage

In any society, it seems that there's various different rites of passage.

I'm at the head temple of the Ar Xia church, the Great Shrine of Misorua, which basically surrounds the royal palace here in the royal capital. I've been kneeling in the dark for some time, thinking about various things instead of the confession I'm supposed to be doing.

In the Arxia Kingdom, this is a rite of passage for seven year olds, a turning point in one's life. This is also the age at which one can be punished for one's own crimes under the law. Meaning, I'm supposed to make an oath to follow the laws of Xia for the rest of my life, and I shall take the responsibility for being punished in accordance with the law if I break any laws.

While commoner children can just go to wherever the closest church is and listen to a recitation of the contents of the Sacred Code, it's different for nobles.

I had to schedule a date beforehand with the Great Shrine of Misorua for the ritual, and perform a purification ceremony by myself in a dark room by confessing for half a day. After that, I have to recite a passage from the Sacred Code, and swear to protect and uphold the law in front of the god Misorua and the priests.

At the same time, this ritual is also meant to formally induct me as a member of the Ar Xia church.

Before seven, I'm only considered an interim member. Well, there's a very high proportion of children that die before reaching seven, and children aren't considered to know right from wrong here until they're seven years old.

Thanks to various detailed memories from my previous life, I felt like everything religion related seemed really shady, and I didn't believe in it at all. Spending half a day shut inside a dark room, I found this confession thing to be rather ridiculous, and I merely remained here in silence.

Whether or not the god Misorua exists, I don't care either way at all. Even if I belong to the Ar Xia church, whether or not I really believe in what they preach isn't important at all. What's important is keeping up appearances and going along with society.

Six months ago, when I kept sleeping constantly for an entire month, I kept dreaming about things from my previous life.

I recalled many things that I had once forgotten. But, rather than feeling like it was something that happened to myself in the past, it felt more like I was reading a book with someone else as the protagonist, or maybe a ghost whispering information to me.

I'm currently Eliza Kaldia from the Arxia Kingdom, not a young girl that used to live in Japan.

In the darkness, although I took a pious pose of reflecting on my past sins, I mostly spent the time saying my farewells to and making a break from my past life.

After the time allotted for confession finally finished, I looked around the main hall of the Great Shrine for a while. My guardian, Earl Terejia had come along with me to the Great Shrine, but he has his uses.

We're finally supposed to be able to invite a bishop that can hold church rituals to my domain. To keep track of the bishop's movements, for the necessary paperwork, and the conditions that would need to be agreed on, this is where the earl comes in. By the way, although the term bishop reminded me of high-ranking clergymen from my past life, here in Arxia it just refers to a much more general educator. Bishops are responsible for teaching reading and writing.

A priest guided me into the shrine's main hall. When I entered, I was struck by the extravagance and magnificence of what was before me. There were exquisite stone sculptures of unrivaled craftsmanship on wooden pedestals and there was also two fountains of flowing water by the main platform. The ceiling had large panes of stained glass in flower shapes, giving the inside of the church an amazing array of colors.

On top of the a main platform was an altar to honor the remains of St.

Ahar, and even more surprisingly there was a spring coming from it. The water flowing from it was enclosed by a circle of stones, and a coffin was placed in the center.

"It's amazing, isn't it."

The priest guiding me seemed to be quite proud of it all. I could only nod in agreement. Seeing such beautiful construction, I haven't ever seen anything like this even in my previous life.

I finally looked away from all the splendor, and started focusing on the priests here. The priest next to me watched me in silence. It feels like he might watch me like this for quite a while, to the point of boredom.

Then, as I looked around at the fine details of the craftsmanship on the ceiling and floor, I heard a voice from behind me.

"Oh my, aren't you..... the Kaldia girl?"

It was a voice that sounded neither young nor old, neither male or female, a very mysterious voice. It sounded familiar. When I turned around, it was a person dressed in white priestly garments.

"Priest Faris-!"

"It seems that you're about to swear your oath. Although, you have quite a terrible expression for someone going through their purification ceremony and confession....."

This is the priest that presided over my birthday celebration last spring, Faris had an ambiguous smile. Although I haven't seen Faris in over a year, there's no change in Faris's appearance, and my cheek involuntarily twitched at this priest's appearance.

".....Well, I guess it's because you have to shoulder such a terrible burden when you're still so young."

Is something funny about all this, that you're making snarky comments, and don't touch my shoulder like that without permission.

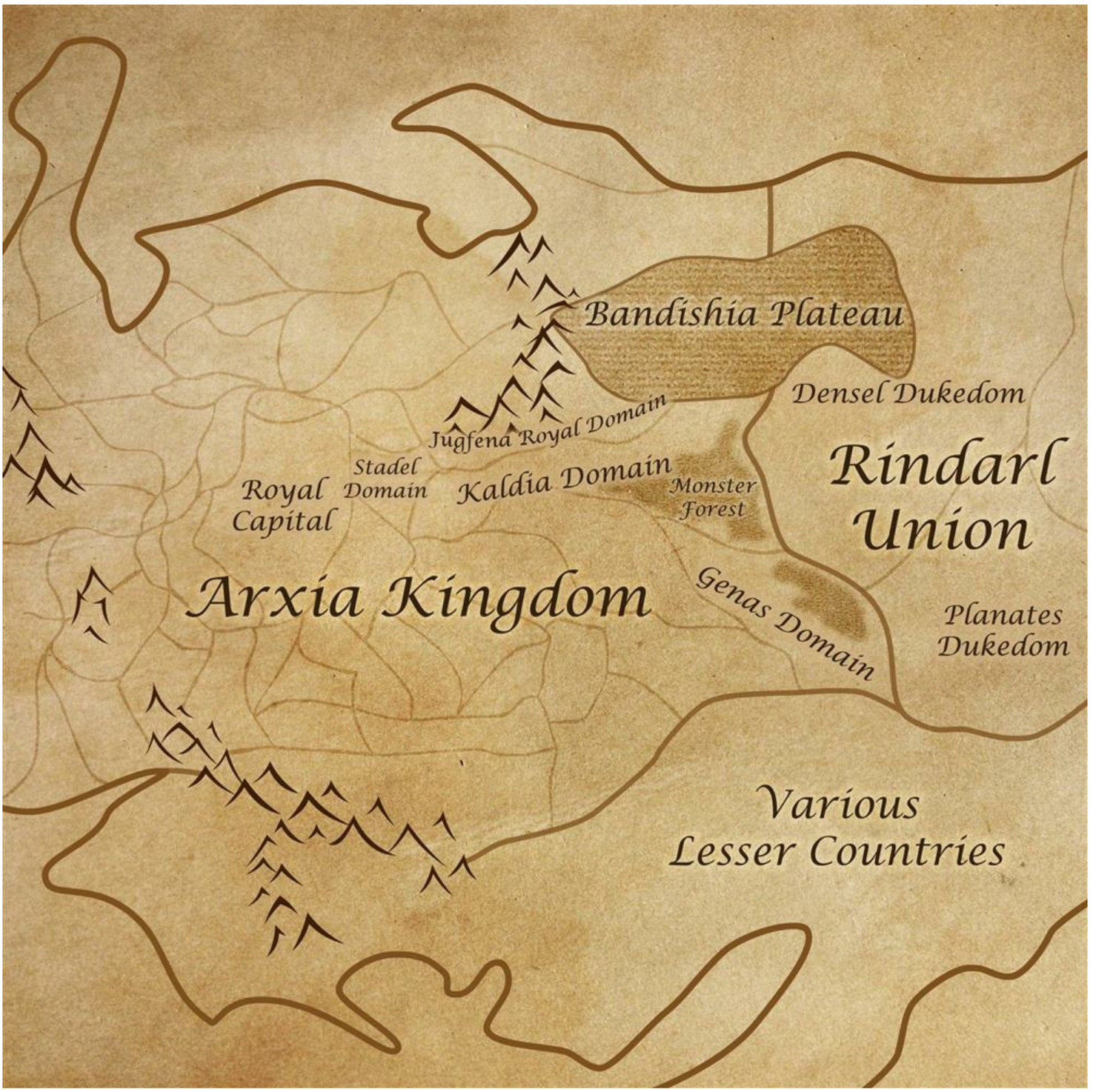
This enigmatic priest, I can't tell what he or she is thinking at all, yet somehow Faris always seems like he or she can see straight into my

heart, I felt extremely unsettled.

“Head Priest-sama, please don’t tease Viscountess Kaldia so much……”

The priest guiding me remonstrated Faris. Priest Faris shrugged lightly, and headed for the altar.

Illustrations



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